



**TAOS COUNTY  
RESOLUTION 2016-62**

TAOS COUNTY  
ANNA MARTINEZ, CLERK  
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1 of 2  
12/20/2016 01:22:48 PM  
BY AMANDAA

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF  
NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS TO TAOS COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Taos County has a wealth of spectacular high-alpine landscapes and ecosystems, including rivers, forests, wetlands, meadows and other natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, these public lands within the county are the basis of our quality of life, offering extensive public cultural and recreational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans from across the nation visit our public lands to participate in activities like hiking, hunting, fishing and camping and thereby support our local and state economies; and

**WHEREAS**, Taos County government works collaboratively with the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the New Mexico State Parks Division, New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, municipal governments and other agencies and organizations within Taos County to improve public land management on a landscape scale; and

**WHEREAS**, these public lands provide critical habitat for native fish and wildlife populations including bighorn sheep, elk, deer, black bear, mountain lion, pine marten, marmot, pika, and Rio Grande cutthroat trout; and

**WHEREAS**, these public lands within Taos County have traditionally been a legally-recognized source of fish, game, firewood, pinon and medicinal herbs for traditional Hispano and Native American communities and families; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the watersheds and acequias originate on these public lands, providing local communities with clean water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans from across the United States value national public lands, as part of our national heritage, and desire to have them protected for future generations to benefit from and enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, Taos County residents participate extensively in volunteerism, helping to maintain trails, build bridges, clean up debris, provide education to visitors and much more, because of their respect and appreciation of the value of these lands for all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 3,989 abandoned mines on public land in New Mexico, and it is estimated that New Mexico taxpayers could face between \$385 million and \$842 million in cleanup costs, should the state assume liability for the abandoned mines located on BLM and USFS lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Forest Service spent over \$240 million in FY2011 and FY2012 to fight wildfires on public lands in New Mexico, a cost that New Mexico taxpayers would have to pay for, should federal public lands be transferred to the state; and

**WHEREAS**, federal funds, labor, personnel, equipment and other specialized fire-prevention and fire-suppression assets are essential to protecting our communities from wildfire; and

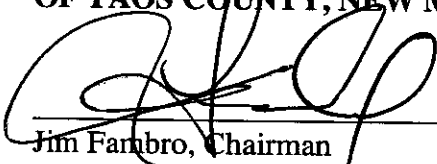
**WHEREAS**, these lands are an outstanding value to surrounding villages, tribal groups, acequia organizations, land grant communities and nothing in this resolution diminishes their rights.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the Taos County Board of Commissioners support continued national ownership and management of these invaluable public lands in Taos County, as well as in the United States generally, as national assets for all Americans.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board recognizes the irreplaceable value these lands provide to our economy, recreation, quality of life and national heritage.

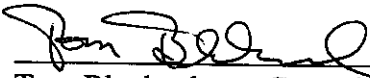
**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED**, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2016.

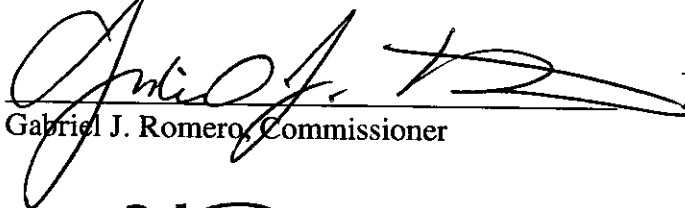
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Fambro, Chairman

**ABSENT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Gallegos, Vice-Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Blankenhorn, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gabriel J. Romero, Commissioner

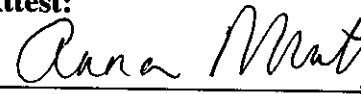
**NO**

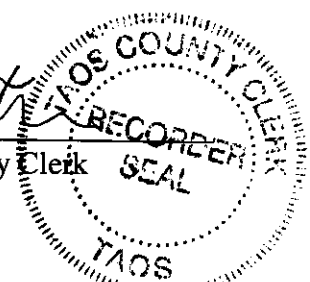
\_\_\_\_\_  
Candyce O'Donnell, Commissioner



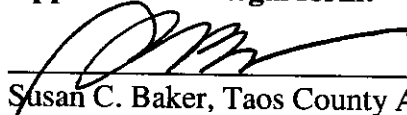
VOTE RECORD:				
J. Fambro	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> abstain	<input type="radio"/> absent
M. Gallegos	<input type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="radio"/> absent
T. Blankenhorn	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> abstain	<input type="radio"/> absent
G. J. Romero	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> abstain	<input type="radio"/> absent
C. O'Donnell	<input type="radio"/> yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> abstain	<input type="radio"/> absent

**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Martinez, Taos County Clerk



**Approved as to legal form:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan C. Baker, Taos County Attorney